

## Preschool Development Grant

**Grant application due:** October 14

### **Purpose:**

1. Develop and enhance Arizona's capacity to deliver high-quality preschool programming
2. Implement and sustain high-quality preschool programming for eligible children in selected high-need communities

**Funding Award:** Arizona is eligible for 20 million dollars annually for up to 4 years totaling 80 million dollars during the development phase based on:

- population of four-year old children from families at 200% federal poverty level
- currently serving less than 10% of four-year olds

*Over the next 4 years:*

~ 65% of funding must go directly to Arizona grantees and be designated to provide high-quality, comprehensive preschool program services in high-need communities

~ 35% may be used by the State for infrastructure development needed to support high-quality preschool systems

### **Infrastructure Considerations:**

- Building additional Quality First Supports to ensure high quality standards: *all participants in this grant will become part of the QF system*
- Connection of preschool information to SLDS/longitudinal data system
- Professional Development System in collaboration with FTF and BUILD Arizona to ensure a High Quality Workforce: *ADE will put money into the Professional Scholarships model approved by FTF to help increase the number of professionals with an ECE certification or Endorsement*

### **Applications will be evaluated and based on:**

#### **Absolute Priorities:**

1. Building capacity to deliver high-quality preschool programs in high-need communities: *ADE chose some specific data sets to determine HNC would be for this grant. Because of the required need to build a pre k-grade 3 continuum, each zip code must be serviced by an LEA with a letter grade of C or higher, LEA served more than 70% Free and Reduced Lunch, LEA identified with 25% or more ELL students in K-3, and finally, based on an ADE formula, the community has adequate number of students that could benefit from this opportunity*

## Competitive Preferences:

1. Contributing matching funds: points earned based on percentage of non-federal match identified

*Arizona is not without some preschool programs; however, relatively few of these are funded with state level tax dollars. Funding for FTF preschool scholarships can be used as match as well as the ADM funds generated by Early Childhood Special Education Preschool Programs. In collaboration with FTF, there are two areas of infrastructure pieces that ADE proposes to support through this grant that will also illustrate match. The first is FTF professional development and second is the Quality First System. Local programs would be required to utilize leverage funds at a scaled rate starting at 10% and building up to 25% by year 4.*

Supporting a continuum of early learning and development from birth through grade 3

*This grant will allow for HNC to strategically work together to increase knowledge and support local LEA literacy plans, increase on-going progress monitoring data available to support the Multi-tiered Support of Systems commonly utilized in K-3 to meet individual learning needs of students, and increase effectiveness of kindergarten transitions*

2. Creating new high-quality state preschool slots

*This grant affords Arizona the opportunity to increase the number of preschool slots within the 15 High Needs Communities which span 5 counties. Year one projections will infuse 2174 slots into the communities and add an additional 434 per year into current HNC or additional HNCs for a total of 3,478 slots*

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/preschooldevelopmentgrants/factsheet-preschooldevelopment.pdf>

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/preschooldevelopmentgrants/executivesummary-419a.pdf>